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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

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Office of Legislative Counsel

OLC 78-5293

5 October 1978

Mr. Norvill Jones, Chief of Staff
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Norvill:

With reference to your request the other day, enclosed please find some classified and unclassified material in connection with your upcoming trip to the USSR.

It would be a great help if you could indicate whom you intend to see and topics of particular interest in order to pull together both a helpful and a manageable package. With respect to the material enclosed, the Atlas and City Guides are somewhat dated, but they do contain some good maps and they are unclassified.

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The memorandum on Brezhnev and the succession is a year old, but we believe the political dynamics it describes are essentially unchanged. The forecast would not be greatly altered today. The one major update would involve the sudden death of Party Secretary Kulakov who had been widely touted as the member of the "younger" generation most likely to get Brezhnev's job as party chief.

Sincerely,

Deputy Legislative Counsel

Enclosures

Distribution:

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USSR SUPREME SOVIET

According to the Soviet Constitution, the USSR Supreme Soviet is the highest organ of authority in the Soviet Union. In terms of political power, however, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) is paramount, and its central executive bodies, headed by the Politburo, make national policy decisions. The USSR Council of Ministers, which directs the country's government bureaucracy, is also extremely important. The Supreme Soviet is a ceremonial legislative body with more than 1,500 deputies. They are elected every five years (an election was held in 1974), and in an election there is one approved candidate for each seat. All the important CPSU policymakers and government executives are also deputies to the Supreme Soviet.

The Supreme Soviet is bicameral, consisting of the Council of the Union and the Council of Nationalities. It meets about twice a year and usually passes unanimously the budget and laws placed before it. Each chamber has 14 standing commissions (for example, the Foreign Affairs Commission), which draft laws and supervise the government executive agencies. The Supreme Soviet also has a Parliamentary Group, through which Soviet legislators maintain contact with their counterparts in other countries.

The ruling body of the USSR Supreme Soviet is the Presidium, which functions between sessions and directs the activities of the standing commissions. Certain of its actions, such as the ratification of treaties and the declaration of war, are exempt from further action by the Supreme Soviet. The Presidium is composed of a Chairman (Leonid Brezhnev); a First Deputy Chairman; 15 Deputy Chairmen, who are the chairmen of the Supreme Soviet Presidiums of the 15 union republics; a secretary; and 21 members. The Presidium officially represents the Soviet State. Its chairman is the Chief of State; he accepts the credentials of foreign diplomats and signs certain international agreements.

CR M 77-16531
20 December 1977

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Organization and Management in the Soviet Economy: The Ceaseless Search for Panaceas

A Research Paper

*ER 77-10769
December 1977*

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Estimated Soviet Defense Spending: Trends and Prospects

A Research Paper

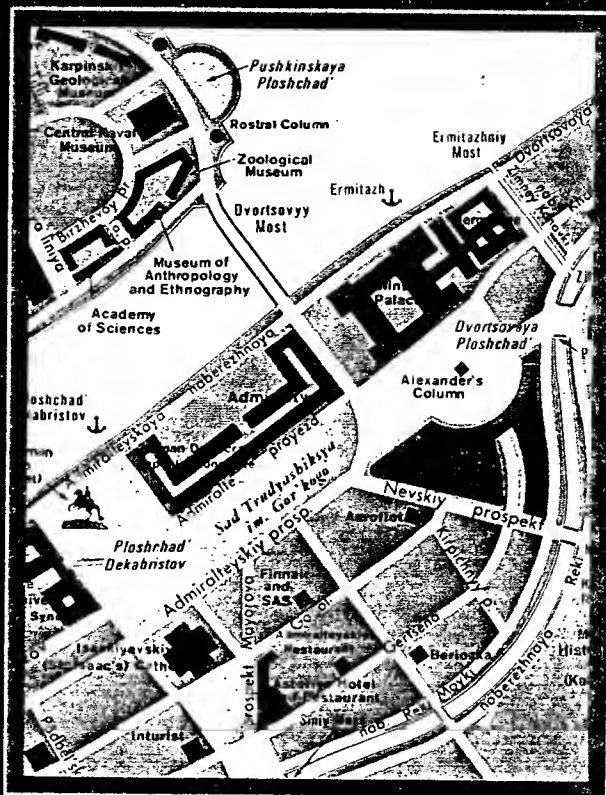
*SR 78-10121
June 1978*

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Leningrad Street Guide

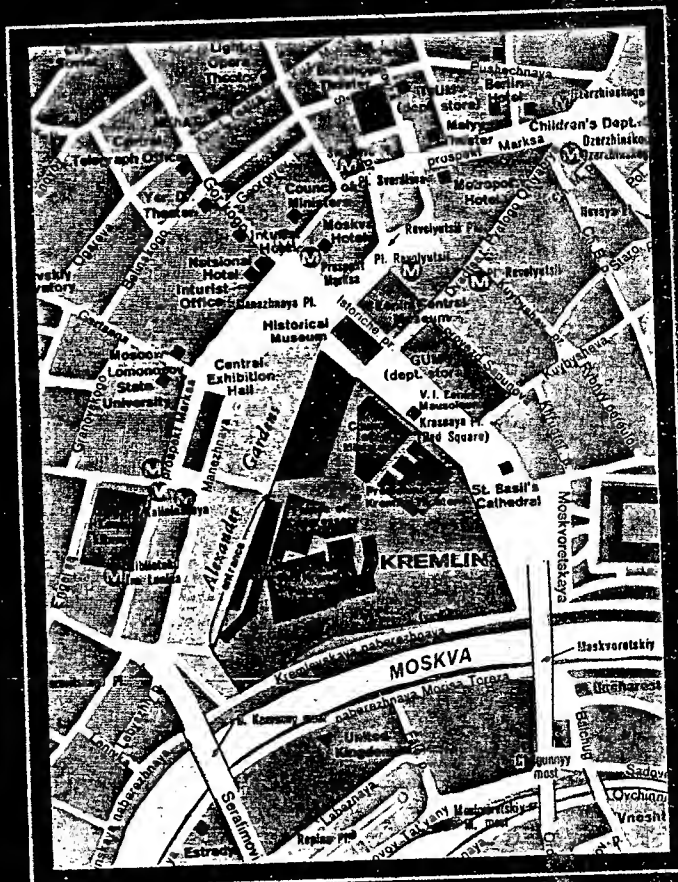
Metro Stations
Places of Interest
Public Buildings

Hotels
Consulates
Theaters



Moscow Street Guide

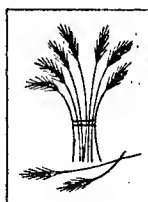
Metro Stations
Places of Interest
Government Offices
Hotels
Embassies
Theaters



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USSR Agriculture Atlas